

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

(PCT Article 18 and Rules 43 and 44)

Applicant's or agent's file reference IB/G - 33434A/BCK	FOR FURTHER ACTION		see Form PCT/ISA/220 as well as, where applicable, item 5 below.
International application No. PCT/EP2004/012149	International filing date (day/month/year) 27/10/2004	(Earliest) Priority Date (day/month/year) 28/10/2003	
Applicant SANDOZ AG			

This International Search Report has been prepared by this International Searching Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 18. A copy is being transmitted to the International Bureau.

This International Search Report consists of a total of 5 sheets.

It is also accompanied by a copy of each prior art document cited in this report.

1. Basis of the report

a. With regard to the **language**, the international search was carried out on the basis of the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

The international search was carried out on the basis of a translation of the international application furnished to this Authority (Rule 23.1(b)).

b. With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application, see Box No. I.

2. **Certain claims were found unsearchable** (See Box II).

3. **Unity of invention is lacking** (see Box III).

4. With regard to the **title**,

the text is approved as submitted by the applicant.

the text has been established by this Authority to read as follows:

5. With regard to the **abstract**,

the text is approved as submitted by the applicant.

the text has been established, according to Rule 38.2(b), by this Authority as it appears in Box No. IV. The applicant may, within one month from the date of mailing of this international search report, submit comments to this Authority.

6. With regard to the **drawings**,

a. the figure of the **drawings** to be published with the abstract is Figure No. _____

as suggested by the applicant.

as selected by this Authority, because the applicant failed to suggest a figure.

as selected by this Authority, because this figure better characterizes the invention.

b. none of the figures is to be published with the abstract.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/EP2004/012149

Box No. IV Text of the abstract (Continuation of item 5 of the first sheet)

This invention provides a process for reducing an exocyclic double bond at the 5-position of a thiazolidinedione moiety of a thiazolidinedione precursor comprising the steps of:

- a) preparing a solution or suspension of the thiazolidinedione precursor in a non-ether solvent medium with a base, and
- b) combining the solution or suspension with a dithionite source.

Preferred solvent media include aqueous N,N-dimethylformamide.

Sodium dithionite is a preferred dithionite source.

In particular the application discloses preparation processes for Pioglitazone, Rosilitazone and Troglitazone.